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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/782,729	02/18/2004	Yasumasa Morimoto	60866 (48882)	3394

21874 7590 04/17/2007
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EXAMINER

MORRISON, THOMAS A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3653

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/17/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/782,729

Applicant(s)

MORIMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas A. Morrison

Art Unit

3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 February 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5, 6 and 8-11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 4 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: (1) claim 3 recites "when, during..." It appears that "**when**," before "during" in line 3 of claim 3 should be deleted. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the stopping stopper member" in lines 20-21.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the stopping stopper member" in line 21. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. One possible solution would be to change all occurrences of "the stopping stopper member" to -- the stopper member --.

Claim 1 recites "a third shaft" on line 15. After this claim 1 recites "a third shaft" on line 23. It is unclear if the recited "a third shaft" in line 23 is the same or different from the previously recited "a third shaft" in line 15.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the arm member" in line 23. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

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Claim 1 recites "the arm member" on line 23. After this claim 1 recites "an arm member" on line 35. It is unclear if the recited "an arm member" in line 35 is the same or different from the previously recited "the arm member" in line 23. It appears that the last wherein clause starting on line 35 of claim 1 should be recited before the recitation added in lines 23-24 of claim 1.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "the stopping stopper member" in lines 26-27.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "the stopping stopper member" in line 27. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. One possible solution would be to change all occurrences of "the stopping stopper member" to -- the stopper member --.

Claim 7 recites "a third shaft" on line 15. After this claim 7 recites "a third shaft" on line 29. It is unclear if the recited "a third shaft" in line 29 is the same or different from the previously recited "a third shaft" in line 15.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "the arm member" in line 29. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 7 recites "the arm member" on line 29. After this claim 7 recites "an arm member" on line 45. It is unclear if the recited "an arm member" in line 45 is the same or different from the previously recited "the arm member" in line 29. It appears that the last wherein clause starting on line 45 of claim 7 should be recited before the recitation added in lines 29-30 of claim 7.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The allowability of claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 cannot be determined, particularly in view of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph outlined above.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Morrison whose telephone number is (571) 272-7221. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Mackey can be reached on (571) 272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

04/11/2007


PATRICK MACKEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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